

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 11442 140035Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-10
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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, SENV, MX
SUBJECT: GOM ATTITUDES ON EXPORT OF PRODUCTS BANNED OR
RESTRICTED IN U.S.

REF: STATE 173239

1. EMBASSY ECONOFF SPOKE TO LIC. LUIS BRAVO AGUILERA,
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR TARIFFS AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS OF
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, WHO WAS VERY FAMILIAR WITH
THE REFERENCES SUBJECT BEING A PARTICIPANT IN INTRA-
AGENCY DISCUSSIONS WITHIN GOM ON THE MATTER. MEXICAN
INTERESTS AS AN ADVANCED LDC HAVE A DIFFERENT ORIENTATION
THAN THOSE OF ADVANCED COUNTRIES. THEY FOCUS ON INCREAS-
ING PRODUCTION OPPORTUNITIES AND FOSTERING EXPORTS.

2. BRAVO SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MEXICO IS AWARE OF ENVIRON-
MENTAL AND HEALTH CONCERNS AT THIS STAGE IN ITS DEVELOP-
MENT THESE TAKE SECOND PRIORITY. HENCE IT DOES NOT
WANT TO BE DEPRIVED OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE ANY PRODUCT
IT DEEMS SUITABLE IN ITS DEVELOPMENT. ALSO BECAUSE IT
IS WILLING TO TOLERATE HIGHER AMBIENT POLLUTION LEVELS,
IT IS RECEPTIVE TO RELOCATION IN MEXICO OF U.S. FIRMS
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UNABLE TO MEET LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, E.G.
FOUNDRIES.

3. MEXICO IS IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED BY U.S. REGULATIONS
GOVERNING PRODUCTION AND USE OF PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES.
IT DOES NOT WANT TO PROGRESS AS QUICKLY AS THE U.S. IN
REGULATING USE OF SUCH PRODUCTS BUT IT FEARS THE U.S.

WILL IMPOSE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON ITS AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WHICH ARE PRODUCED WITH REGULATED OR BANNED PRODUCTS. SIMILARLY MEXICO IS CONCERNED BY U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS ON U.S. AUTOMOBILES WHICH IT FEELS ARE NOT YET APPROPRIATE FOR U.S. MODELS PRODUCED IN MEXICO BUT MANY OF WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED.

4. AMONG THE POLICY OPTIONS MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH FOUR OF REFTTEL THE GOM WOULD STRONGLY FAVOR THE FIRST, I.E. THAT IT BE NOTIFIED OF ANY RESTRICTION AND THE REASON FOR IT. IF IT WERE NOT SO INFORMED THE GOM WOULD HAVE TO ACTIVELY SEARCH FOR THIS INFORMATION. IT PROBABLY COULD TOLERATE THE SECOND OPTION ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NOT BE PLEASED BY IT. THE GOM WOULD NOT FAVOR THE LAST TWO OPTIONS. IT FEELS THAT OTHER COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT BE TELLING MEXICO WHAT IT SHOULD IMPORT OR HOW IT SHOULD CONTROL ITS IMPORTS. IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF SIMPLIFYING ITS IMPORT CONTROL SYSTEM, PLUS WELL OVER 60 PERCENT OF ITS IMPORTS COME FROM THE U.S. COVERING A BROAD RANGE OF PRODUCTS. A REQUIREMENT THAT MEXICO GRANT IMPORT APPROVAL BEFORE THE U.S. WOULD ALLOW AN EXPORT TO IT WOULD IMPOSE AN INSUPERABLE BUREAUCRATIC LOAD ON MEXICO. VERY FEW OF THE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF THE TRADE TRANSACTIONS EACH YEAR WITH THE U.S. WOULD BE AMONG THE ITEMS NOTIFIED. IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD TO A SHIFT TOWARD OTHER SUPPLIERS SINCE MEXICAN IMPORTERS ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH PAPERWORK. WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE U.S. BE READY TO FINANCE THE EXTRA COST TO MEXICO OF OPTION THREE? ON OPTION FOUR BRAVO IMPLIED THE GOM BELIEVES THAT ALTHOUGH THE U.S. IS WITHIN ITS AUTHORITY IN CONTROLLING ITS OWN PRODUCTION AND TRADE, IF MEXICO WANTS AN ITEM WHICH THE U.S. CANNOT SUPPLY IT WILL ALWAYS BE ABLE TO FIND IT ELSEWHERE. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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